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therefore no assault. As a matter of fact, he got himself admitted into the hospital about two or three months after the alleged incident."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, so far as the theft is concerned, I do not know whether it has taken place or not. Even admitting that the theft did take place, has the village munsif the power to beat a person, tying him hand and foot and oppress him in an inhuman manner? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the hon. Member should know that every village munsif helps the police when the police go there for the purpose of investigation. The allegations that he was bound hand and foot has been found to be not true. As to whether the theft was committed or not, I am sure the hon. Member who put the original question should be aware of that, as he comes from that locality."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, if the authorities came to the conclusion that the allegations were not true, may I know whether they have taken steps to prosecute the persons who made the allegations for having given a false complaint and for having made a false report? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I shall consider this very useful suggestion. Because, it was not the first instance where allegations of murder were made and seriously made and later on it was found that such persons were alive."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Sir, this Thottathil Chathan was arrested because the adhikari wanted to save himself by preventing him from giving any evidence. Will Government enquire into this matter of his arrest made in order to prevent him from giving evidence? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think it would be of any use. This matter has been enquired into and it is not true that he was arrested to prevent him from giving evidence. A statement has been recorded from him with regard to this incident."

Cultivable poramboke lands in Vriddhachalam taluk.

* 695 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Sri Kattimuthu is not in his place. The answer to the question will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" I put the question on his behalf, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Are you authorized by him? "

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

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SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kattimuthu): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many acres of poramboke lands are available for cultivation in Vriddhachalam taluk; and

(b) out of the above, how many acres of land are being cultivated by Harijans?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (a) 1,147·74 acres.

" (b) 841·24 acres."

Formation of new handloom co-operative societies in 1946–47 and 1952–53.

* 696 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many new handloom co-operative societies were formed in the State during the years 1946–47 and 1952–53?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The number of new handloom co-operative societies formed in 1946–47 and 1952–53 were 156 and 21 respectively."

Payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to textile workers.

* 697 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, issued any circular to the managers of all the textile mills in the State recommending the payment of an advance of Rs. 20 to the workers before 5th November 1953, as an advance in the bonus account; and

(b) if so, how many mills accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour and how many did not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Thirty out of eighty-five mills to whom the appeal was sent have paid the advance and the remaining 55 mills did not."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN:—" Sir, the remaining mills which did not pay to the workers are in a position to pay the moneys to the workers according to the recommendation of the Labour Commissioner. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister for Labour what the opinion of the Government is regarding their non-payment and their unsympathetic attitude towards the workers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Sir, I have no information about their capacity to pay or not. But if 55 mills had not complied with the request of the Commissioner of Labour, I have myself no doubt that several of them are